

Reading Lithuanian and Belarusian Roman Catholic Death/Burial Records Written in Russian

"How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

July 2022

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract information from Roman Catholic birth record written in Russian by understanding column headings and identifying key words and phrases.

HOW TO

Translation of Column Headings

1. Entry Number/ Surname	2. Date of Death	3. Age	4. Name of deceased and information about the date, location, and cause of death	5. Remaining family members of the deceased	6. Name of the priest and when/where buried
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№	Число смерти.	Лѣта отъ роду.	Когда? гдѣ? кто? отъ какой блѣны или по какому слу- чаю умеръ? былъ ли при- чащенъ Св тайнами.	Какого былъ состоянія? зва- нія? Сколько жилъ? пѣтъ ка- кого прихода и кого оста- вилъ дѣтей.	Какимъ именно Священни- комъ, когда и гдѣ похоро- ненъ.
4.	18.	60.	Мысяка дважьсотъ мѣстотого года Анва- вотъ Викентіи мужъ роменъ род ря 18-го дня въ дерев- нѣ Выхорахъ скон- чался мѣщанинъ Иванъ Димитріевъ Мацейковъ отъ воспаленія.	оставившася вдово мужъ роменъ род отъ роду отъ великихъ 60 лѣтъ Свѣковъ на свій приходъ сѣбѣ оставилъ сына Петра и дочерей: Анелю Антонию Анастасію и Сте- фану.	Мѣстотого похоро- ненъ.

Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMW-F4JX-H?i=344&cat=1594996>

This column contains the entry number, and often the surname of the deceased is also written out horizontally in this column. Rotate the page, and scan for your surname on each entry. Keep in mind that surnames may have been Polonized before they were transliterated in Russian.

2. DATE OF DEATH

Just the date (numeral) of the death is recorded in this column. In some cases, you may find the month written out on the first entry of the month, otherwise, you will find the full date recorded in column three. Below you will find translations of months of the year along with a handwritten example.

Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)	Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)
January января	января	July июля (іюля)	Іюль
February февраля	февраля	August августа	Августа
March марта	Марта	September сентября	Сентября
April апреля	Апреля	October октября	Октября
May мая	Мая	November ноября	Ноября
June июня (іюня)	Іюня	December декабря	Декабря

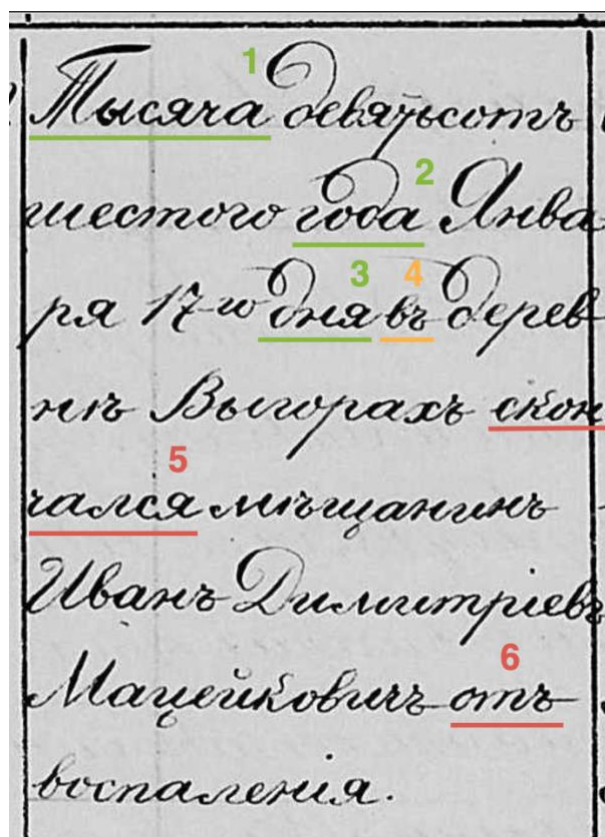
3. AGE

The age at time of death was recorded in years, and in some cases months, weeks, days, or hours (usually in the case of a deceased child or infant). These terms are usually abbreviated. See below for examples.

English	Russian	Handwritten Examples
Year	г. (год)	22.
Month	м., мцв. (месяць)	Минув М

Week	н., нед. (недель)	нес. нед.
Day	д., дн. (дня)	27 мая
Hour	ч. (часов)	12

4. NAME OF DECEASED AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATE, LOCATION, AND CAUSE OF DEATH



Column 4 Paragraph Outline

One-thousand¹ (year written out) year² (month) (day written out) day,³ in⁴ (name of village) died⁵ (social standing of deceased) (name of deceased) of⁶ (cause of death).

In some cases, following the cause of the death, you might find the phrase: быв(ъ) причащен(а) святыми Тайнами. This translates to "they were given the last holy sacrament." See below for an example.

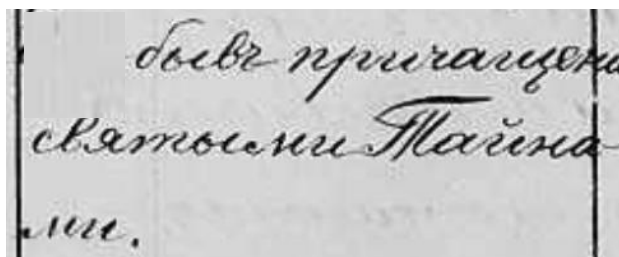


Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMW-F4JX-H?i=344&cat=1594996>

Column 4 Key Words

The following key words will indicate the essential genealogical information. The information may come before, after, or between the key words. In some cases, the examples provided may

differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Russian	Information given	Handwritten Examples
1. One thousand	Тысяча	Followed by the rest of the year, written out.	Тысяча Месса. Тысяча
2. year	года	Followed by the month of death.	Года года года.
3. day	дня	Preceded by the date of death.	два дня.
4. in	в(ъ)	Followed by the name of the village the person died in.	в в в.
5. died (male)	скончался	Followed by the name of the deceased*	скончался. скончался
5. died (female)	скончалась	Followed by the name of the deceased *	скончалась скончалась
6. of	от(ъ)	Followed by the cause of death. See the Russian genealogical	от от от

		word list for causes of death.	
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*The deceased's name may be preceded by their social estate, or the word child, for those who died young. Common examples and their translations are found below. Use the Russian Genealogical Word List for any other additional terms you might encounter.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Peasant	Крестьян(ъ)	<i>Крестьянъ</i>
Petty bourgeois	Мѣщан(ъ)/ Мѣщанин(ъ)	<i>Мѣщанинъ</i>
Nobility	Дворянъ	<i>Дворянъ</i>
Child	Дитя	<i>Дитя</i>

5. REMAINING FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DECEASED, AGE AND PARISH

This column contains information about the living family members the deceased left behind. It may include a spouse, child, or parent(s). The age of the deceased person at the time of death as well as the parish they belonged to was typically recorded.

Keep in mind that names of family members appear in genitive and/or instrumental case. To learn more about genitive case, please see [Deciphering the Handwriting and Understanding the Grammar](#).

The information in this column can vary greatly in order and detail, so below you will find some of the common vocabulary you might encounter in this column. This list is not inclusive. Please see the genealogical word list for additional vocabulary not included on this list.

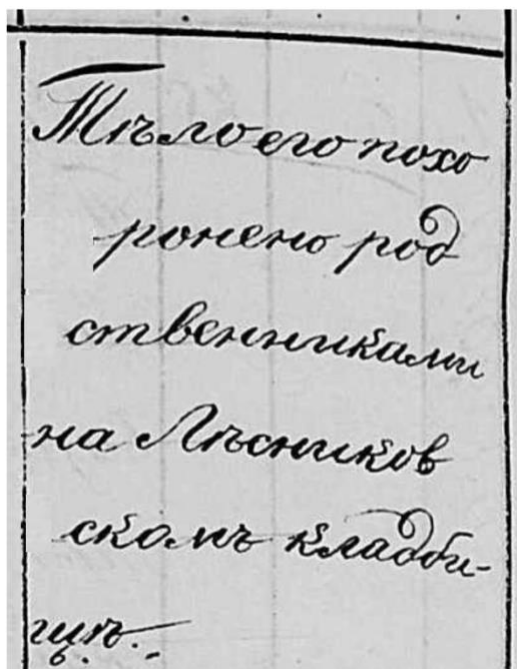
English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Remaining	Оставшиеся	<i>Оставшиеся</i>
He left behind	Оставил(ъ)	<i>Оставилъ</i>

She left behind	Оставила	<i>оставила</i>
Widow	Вдова Вдовою (instrumental case)	<i>вдова вдовую</i>
Widower	Вдовец(ъ) Вдовцем(ъ) (instrumental case)	<i>Вдовецъ вдовцемъ</i>
Son	Сына (genitive case)	<i>сына</i>
Sons	Сыновей (genitive case)	<i>сыновей</i>
Daughter	Дочь	<i>дочь</i>
Daughters	Дочерей (genitive case)	<i>дочерей</i>
And	и	<i>и</i>
English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Parents of the son	Законных(ъ) супругов(ъ) сын(ъ)	<i>законныхъ супруговъ сына</i>
Parents of the daughter	Законных(ъ) супругов(ъ) дочь	<i>законныхъ супруговъ дочь</i>

Having been (usually included before the age)	Имевшая Имѣвшая	<i>имевшая</i>
Age	Лет(ъ) от роду	<i>летъ отъ роду</i>
Age	Года от роду (ages ending 1- 4)	<i>года отъ роду</i>
Parishioner/ member of the parish (male)	Прихожанин(ъ)	<i>прихожанинъ</i>
Parishioner/ member of the parish (female)	Прихожанка	<i>прихожанка</i>

6. NAME OF THE PRIEST AND WHEN/WHERE BURIED

The order or type of information included in this column may vary, but see below for a general overview of the kind of information you might find in this column.



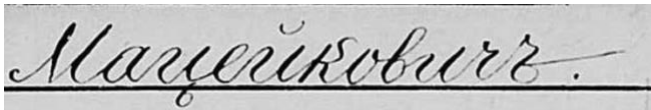
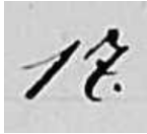
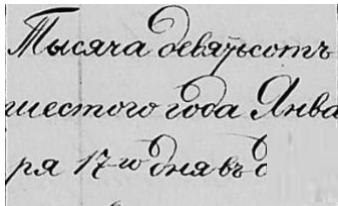
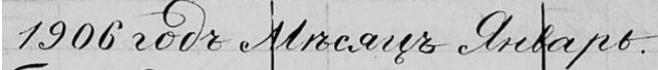
English Translation: his/her body was buried [may include location – for example, with family members] by (name of priest) in the (name of cemetery) cemetery.

In this example, the name of the priest is not given.

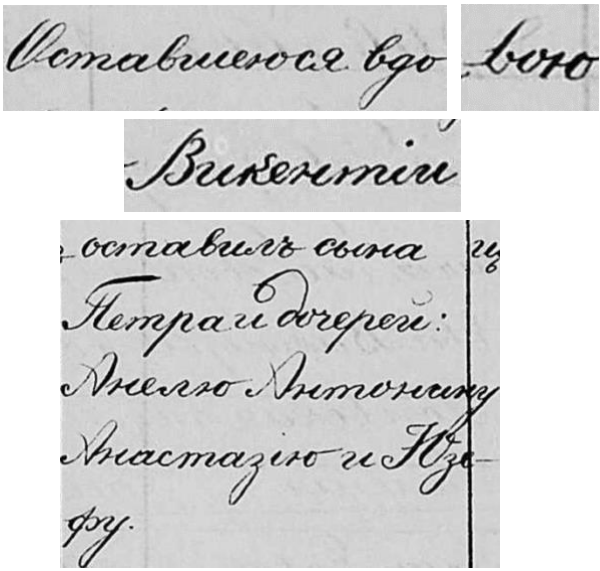
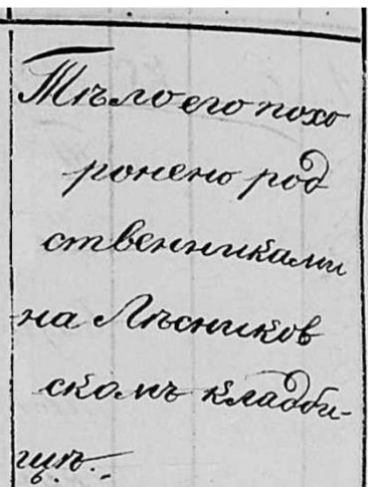
Original Russian: тѣло его/ея похоронено (name of the priest) на (name of cemetery) кладбищѣ

PRACTICE

Now that we have learned about the key words, let's practice reading the record above (link found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMW-F4JX-H?i=344&cat=1594996> by extracting the details.

What is the surname written in the first column?	Maciejkowicz Мацейковичъ	
What was the date of death? (hint – it's recorded in two places)	17 January 1906	   <p>^on previous page</p>

How old was the deceased at the time of death? (hint – it's recorded in two places)	60 years old	  
Where did the deceased die?	In the village of Vigori (Выгоры)	
Was the deceased a male or female? How do you know?	Male – because the masculine form of the verb died was used (скончился)	
What was the deceased's social estate?	Petty Bourgeois (мѣщанинъ)	
What was the name of the deceased?	Ivan Dimitriev Maciejkowicz (Иванъ Димитревъ Мацейковичъ)	 
What was the cause of death?	inflammation воспаленія	

<p>What family members (list their relationships) did the deceased leave behind?</p>	<p>Widow (wife) Vicentia, son Petr and daughters: Anella, Antonina, Anastasia and Josefa. (Оставшеюся вдовою Викенти; оставилъ сына Петра и дочерей Анелю Антонину Анастасію и Юзефу.</p>	
<p>Where was the deceased buried?</p>	<p>Buried with his relatives in the forest cemetery. (тѣло его похоронено родственниками на Лсниковскомъ кладбищѣ)</p>	

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here](#) to try out the Activity.